

### REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A new abstract is attached hereto to overcome the objection to the original abstract.

Claims 13 has been amended to correct the typographical error cited by the Examiner and to correct other minor typographical errors.

Claims 13-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by EP 0 690 083 A1 ("EP '083"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The presently claimed invention relates to a storage-stable sulfonated condensation product based on an amino resin former having at least two amino groups, at least one sulfite and naphthalenesulfonic acid; and formaldehyde and optionally organic nitrogen bases, having at least one nitrogen-containing formulation auxiliary.

The formulation auxiliary can be a compound of formula I, such as, for example, urea or thiourea, or a compound according to formula II. An essential feature of the presently claimed invention is that the formulation auxiliary as such must be present as a component of the condensation product, i.e., as a component of formula I or II; however, not as a reaction product of such components. The presence of unreacted components according to formula I or formula II as a formulation auxiliary can be achieved by adding the formulation auxiliary in addition to conventional reagents used for condensation and by adding portions 2 and 3 of the formulation auxiliary only when the incorporation of the sulfite component into the condensation product is completed, respectively (See, e.g., claim 20). Thus, claim 13 clearly refers to condensation products wherein the components of formula I or II are per se present in addition to the actual condensation product. The reacted components are unable to be described by formulas I and II, respectively, since these are incorporated in the product and accordingly have a different structure.

Thus, the present invention relates to use of a formulation auxiliary, e.g., urea or thiourea, but not its active involvement in condensation.

EP '083, cited by the Examiner, discloses condensation products obtained by a method wherein first a precondensate of a compound I containing at least two amino groups (e.g., melamine or urea), aldehyde (e.g., formaldehyde), sulfonating agent (e.g., sulfite) and optionally a co-reacting agent is prepared.

Subsequently, any unreacted sulfonating agent is eliminated by an oxidation step by adding an oxidizing agent, e.g.,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ . The oxidation step, however, is undesirable because it incurs an additional expense and, advantageously, is not necessary in the process of the invention.

In a second step b), the precondensate is converted, optionally in the presence of co-reacting agents into a polycondensate.

A formulation auxiliary, for example, urea or thiourea as such is not present in the products according to EP '083. If urea is used in the method according to EP '083, it is not employed as a formulation auxiliary but as compound I in step a) for preparing a precondensate and, thus, is actively involved in the polycondensation.

Moreover, nowhere does EP '083 mention the addition of any compounds which, according to the formulation auxiliary of the present invention, are contained unreacted in the product. In the method according to EP '083 all components involved are reactants or co-reacting agents, i.e., they contribute actively to the condensation, so no free components having a formulating action are present in the product. Further, any unreacted (co)-reactants that might be present are eliminated by the oxidation step.

Therefore, the products produced according to EP '083 do not contain any unreacted components which might have formulating activity. The claims are, therefore, clearly distinguished from the properties which formulation auxiliaries have and, in particular, from the formulation auxiliaries which, according to the present application, are added in portions, which remain in the product and which in the previous reaction steps, are not involved in condensation.

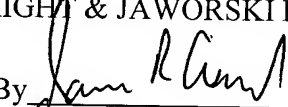
In view of the foregoing, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If any fees are due to enter this amendment or to maintain pendency of this application, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

By

  
James R. Crawford  
Reg. No. 39,155

666 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10103  
(212) 318-3148

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*Eileen Sheffield 9/26/03*  
Eileen Sheffield